

Perinatal Hepatitis B

Case Definition (*)

Clinical description

Perinatal HBV infection in the newborn can range from asymptomatic to fulminant hepatitis.

Laboratory criteria

Hepatitis B surface antigen-positive (HBsAg-positive)

Case classification

HBsAg positivity in any infant < 24 months of age who was born in the United States or in U.S. territories to an HBsAg-positive mother.

Comment:

Infants born to HBsAg-positive mothers should receive hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG) and the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours of birth, followed by the second and third doses of vaccine at 1 and 6 months of age, respectively. Post-vaccination testing for HBsAg and hepatitis B surface antibody (anti-HBs) is recommended from 3 to 6 months following completion of the vaccine series. If HBIG and the initial dose of vaccine are delayed for >1 month after birth, testing for HBsAg may determine if the infant is already infected.

*The Conference of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) adopted this case definition in March 1995.